

Youth center grand opening

The youth center grand opening celebration is Jan. 18. There will be a children's dance recital, martial arts demonstrations, climbing-wall demonstrations, and prize drawings. The staff will also offer tour of the facility throughout the day. For more information, call the 48th Services Squadron marketing office staff at Ext. 3066.

Thousands of airmen eligible for Montgomery GI Bill conversion

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — More than 30,000 Air Force members can switch from their VEAP education benefit program to one with higher payouts starting Feb. 1.

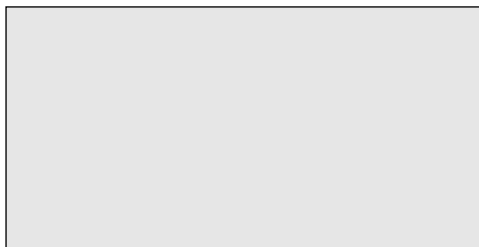
Airmen who entered active duty from 1977 to 1985 could enroll in VEAP. If they did so, they could contribute up to \$2,700 into the program, with the government making a two-for-one dollar match. The total benefit was \$8,100.

Since 1985, airmen could enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill. Those who enrolled contributed \$100 per month for a year and will receive a total return of \$15,400.

Those interested in the program have until Oct. 8 to fill out a VEAP disenrollment form and a Montgomery GI Bill enrollment form at the education office.

Airmen will receive full refunds for remaining funds in their VEAP accounts. They may then make a lump sum payment of \$1,200 or a payroll deduction of \$100 a month for 12 months to the Montgomery GI Bill. They cannot use their new education benefits until they are fully vested with the \$1,200 in the GI Bill account.

For more information, call the education office at Ext. 3851.



Enlisted promotion rates increase in 1997

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force personnel officials have announced an early holiday present for many noncommissioned officer grades. Promotion rates to staff, technical and master sergeants will increase in 1997 to the highest levels seen in the last 10 years.

"During the drawdown we were forced to stick with TOPCAP (Total Objective Plan for Career Airmen Personnel) minimum promotion rates so we would not overproduce NCOs," said Lt. Gen. Michael D. McGinty, deputy chief of staff for personnel. "However, as end strength and requirements stabilize, we now have the opportunity to raise our promotion rates."

The largest increase will come at technical sergeant with an increase of more than 3 percent from the 1996 rate. The expected promotion rate of 14.7 percent has not been reached since 1987. The drawdown's low point for technical sergeants was 11.1 percent in 1988.

Master sergeants will get about a 1.7 percent boost to 21.2 percent in 1997. This promotion rate is higher than any since 1987 at this grade. In 1990, during the drawdown, master sergeant promotions dipped to a low of 18.9 percent.

Staff sergeant promotion rates will increase by about 1 percent to 17.6 percent. Although a modest increase, this rate is the highest enjoyed by prospective staffs since 1987, with the exception of one year in 1995. Staff sergeants labored under a 5.5 percent promotion rate at one time during the drawdown. "A promotion rate of 17.6 percent will be a welcome change," said McGinty.

McGinty went on to say, "As end strength slowly stabilizes, increasing promotion rates is the right thing for our people and the Air Force. This will balance our grades and continue to provide a good opportunity for career progression."

Study reference requirements change for some career fields

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFNS) — Since publication of the 1996 Weighted Airmen Promotion System Catalog Aug. 10, there have been nine pen and ink changes affecting the study reference requirements for 23 Air Force specialty codes. The following AFSCs are affected:

Master sergeant/technical sergeant cycle — 1T071, survival training; 2A673, aircrew egress systems; 3C371, comm-comp sys planning and implementation; 3S171, social actions; 4A171, medical materiel; 4A271, biomedical equipment; 4C071, mental health service; 4E071, public health; 4N171C, surgical service (orthopedic); 4R071A, B, C, radiologic; and 8F070, first sergeant.

Staff sergeant testing cycle — 1A151C, flight engineer; 1T051, survival training; 2A651B, aerospace propulsion; 2A653, aircrew egress systems; 3E871 and 3E851, explosive ordnance disposal; 3C351, comm-comp sys planning and implementation; 3S151, social actions; 4C051, mental health service; 4A151, medical materiel; 4A251, biomedical equipment; and 4R051A, B, C, radiologic.

Enlisted people in these AFSCs should contact their unit WAPS monitor to view the changes. The changes have also been posted to the electronic version of the catalog.

See Notes, page 10

Did You Know?

□ Orderly rooms must ensure that Personal Reliability Program status appears on all temporary duty orders and the unit PRP monitor must initial off on them to show the member has been briefed on their PRP responsibilities while on TDY. (For information, call Ext. 2068)

□ All dependents must carry a valid passport when traveling abroad. Dependents who don't have European Community passports should have a current VISA stamp on their passport granting permission to be in the United Kingdom. (For information, call Ext. 2303)

Fogleman

from page 4

precision engagement in the early midterm;

□ Evolved expendable launch vehicle, space-based infrared system and airborne laser for air and space superiority in the later midterm;

□ F-22 for air and space superiority in the far-term;

□ And Joint Strike Fighter for global attack and precision

engagement in the far-term.

The chief of staff emphasized that "Our new vision commits the Air Force to a vigorous program of experimenting, testing and exercising new systems and operations concepts for their employment.

"So," he said, "we are establishing new, focused battle labs to promote innovation in the key areas of space operations, air expeditionary forces, battle management, force protection,

information warfare and unmanned aerial vehicles."

The new vision recognizes the crucial role played by talented and motivated people in preparing the Air Force for the challenges of the future. It reaffirms the core values of "integrity first," "service before self" and "excellence in all we do." It also underwrites the commitment of the senior leadership to provide all Air Force people a quality environment

in which they can realize their full potential.

"A big part of our vision process is an understanding by our people that this new vision will not result in abrupt or unnecessary changes to the way we are going about our business of providing combat capability for the nation," said Fogleman. "In the end, that's what counts ... being able to defend America ... to fight and win the nation's wars when called upon to do so."